

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
October 31 - November 7, 2012

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1. [Presidential Inaugural Support Remains Vital Military Mission](#) (11-07-2012)

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7, 2012 – The U.S. military takes great pride in the centuries-old tradition of supporting the presidential inauguration and recognizing the president as commander in chief, the deputy for inaugural support said here today.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Jim Scanlan, with Joint Task Force National Capital Region, discussed the history of inaugural support with The Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service, and offered a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the planning involved for the 57th presidential inauguration, slated for Jan. 21, 2013.

Military involvement in ceremonies welcoming a president “dates back to the very first inauguration, when the militia and Revolutionary War veterans escorted then-President George Washington to New York for his inauguration,” Scanlan said.

“President John F. Kennedy’s inauguration, in 1961, is what’s known to be the largest where there were actually 30,000 participants -- 15,000 of those being military,” he said.

In contrast, the general said, the 57th presidential inauguration will have about 5,000 service members involved and a total of 12,000 participants.

Scanlan called the inauguration a “showcase” event that demonstrates “what a great nation we have” to the world and recognizes the president, as elected by the people.

“It’s truly an honor for a service member to have the opportunity [to participate in the inauguration,” he said. “This is the first time that I’ll ever have the opportunity in a 27-year career to support the inauguration.”

“And ... to have that opportunity to participate in an event, that really, we look at as something the entire world watches,” Scanlan added.

Scanlan explained why inaugural support remains “absolutely vital” and is still a relevant military mission today.

“It provides us an opportunity to recognize the president as the commander-in-chief,” he said, “and it provides us an opportunity, as the 5,000 or so members that participate, to represent the more than two million total force members that are serving worldwide.”

Scanlan described how support for the ceremony usually works, noting the support alone is a week-long process, and “it’s really not just one inauguration proceeding.”

“The inauguration itself is a very long day,” he said. It normally starts with a church service, he said, then proceeds through the procession down to the Capitol, followed by the swearing-in ceremony, a luncheon, a parade and finally an inaugural ball during the evening.

Scanlan also noted there are minor differences for an inauguration when a president has been re-elected.

“The big one being that there won’t be a departure of the outgoing president,” he said. “It’s one of the things that we plan for. If there is a new president, we have to arrange for the departure of the outgoing president.”

“But that’s not a factor now,” Scanlan said. “Everything else is pretty much the same for the most part.”

The general discussed the primary duties of service members who are part of the inaugural support.

“We provide ceremonial support to all the events -- that could be in the form of a color guard, or a musical ensemble,” he said. “And then actually the day of the inauguration, ceremonial support in the form a street cordon, and of course, the parade itself.”

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, Scanlan said, has guidelines on what ceremonial support the joint task force provides.

“The secretary of defense designated the commander of U.S. Northern Command as the commander responsible for providing all the military support to the inauguration,” he said. “And then Joint Task Force National Capital Region is actually coordinating all of that.”

In these austere times, Scanlan said, the task force has gotten “more efficient and more effective over the years” in planning and providing support. Other challenges include the “sheer magnitude of the event,” potential weather changes and the crowd turnout, he added.

Due to these and other unforeseen circumstances, Scanlan said, planning began about a year ago, with the first “augmentees” arriving in April, and some set to arrive “as late as January 7.”

So the military continues to carry on a long tradition of supporting and recognizing the commander-in-chief as the world looks on.

“It’s an honor to be here,” Scanlan said. “For all the service members, it’s just a great opportunity for us to recognize the president as the commander-in-chief.”

Biographies:

[Air Force Brig. Gen. James P. Scanlan](#)

Related Sites:

[57th Presidential Inaugural Support](#)

2. Disarmament Machinery (11-07-2012)

Disarmament Machinery Segment of Thematic Debate in the First Committee of the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Statement by Delegation of the United States of America

The United States delegation listened with interest to the statements made by the distinguished representatives on the Disarmament Machinery Panel, as well as those by delegations. We had not intended to speak under this debate item, as the United States has spoken to the question of Disarmament Machinery in different venues, including here at the related 2010 High Level Meeting, and its follow-up plenary in July 2011. However, we were prompted by what we have heard to reiterate the U.S. perspective on the machinery, as well as to address specifically the role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

We continue to believe that the international community got it just about right in its considerations on Disarmament Machinery at the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament in 1978. The deadlock faced in the Conference on Disarmament, and the inability of the UNDC to reach consensus conclusions following its deliberations, are not the fault of the machinery itself. While modest adjustments to the machinery might be helpful, they will not be a panacea. Rather, what’s missing is the desire of certain States to use this machinery as it was initially intended. And the United States does not believe some new conference - like a Fourth Special Session of the United Nations Devoted to Disarmament - will fix this.

At the same time, another part of the disarmament machinery, first proposed by France in SSOD I, has prospered - UNIDIR, which in 1980 was established by the General Assembly as an autonomous research institute. UNIDIR’s Board of Trustees is the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament, established by the GA at SSOD I.

U.S. support for UNGA Resolution 65/87 adopted in 2010 on the "Thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research" reflected our strong support for the work of the Institute. The United States has worked closely on several important projects with UNIDIR over the years, including recent support for its annual space security conference and the upcoming UNIDIR cyber security conference entitled "The Role of Confidence Building Measures in Assuring Cyber

Stability." The United States continues to value UNIDIR's impartial, action-oriented research and welcomes continued projects on other key issues such as the disarmament machinery and

With a view to making the United Nations and its related organizations more efficient and cost effective, there is a proposal under development that would cluster UN-related institutions involved with training and research together, which would involve moving UNIDIR into this new cluster. The United States is all for efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Let there be no doubt about that. At the same time, we would be interested in knowing more about how such a move comports with UNIDIR's autonomous and independent status, what impact it would have on the status and role of UNIDIR's Board of Trustees established by the UNGA, how it would advance UNIDIR's ability to respond to States Parties' disarmament and nonproliferation research interests and activities, and how it would actually result in cost savings and efficiency, while reinforcing UNIDIR's valuable role. Finally, if there is to be a reorganization, it makes sense to keep UNIDIR associated with its main purpose – disarmament and nonproliferation. UNIDIR doesn't train UN staff, it works with Member States on disarmament and nonproliferation research. As such, it would be better associated in a cluster that includes the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, with whom it closely works. Fundamentally, the disarmament and nonproliferation issues that are at the core of UNIDIR's remit are peace and

The United States would also like to reiterate its thanks to Mr. Kim Won-soo for briefing the UNGA First Committee on the efforts aimed at change management, and for his offer of an "interactive dialogue" with Member States. We look forward to that conversation.

[Other Disarmament Issues](#) and International Security Segment of Thematic Debate in the First Committee of the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly (11-02-2012)
[Regional Disarmament and Security Segment](#) (11-02-2012)

3. Under Secretary Sherman Consults with Somali Leaders (11-05-2012)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman became the first senior U.S. official to visit Mogadishu, Somalia, in more than 20 years November 4, reflecting the United States' commitment to support efforts by Somalia's leaders to stabilize the Horn of Africa nation after more than 20 years of civil strife and violence.

Sherman, who is the under secretary for political affairs, met with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mahamud, Speaker of the Federal Parliament Mohammed Osman Jawari, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Force Commander Lieutenant General Andrew Gutti, the U.N. deputy special representative of the secretary-general for Somalia, and leaders of Somalia's civil society and business community, according to the State Department. They met at Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle International Airport.

"Sherman welcomed the announcement by Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon that he has named his new cabinet," the department said in a prepared announcement following her visit. Sherman said the United States is pleased to see that the new cabinet includes two women, which is a positive sign of the crucial role women play in Somali life.

According to published news reports, Somalia's parliament is expected to meet shortly to consider the new cabinet.

Sherman stressed her conviction that Somalia is now a place of hope, not of despair, and she congratulated the Somali leadership on the political progress made in Somalia, including the August 20 formation of Parliament and the September 10 election of President Hassan Sheikh.

The United States has provided humanitarian and security assistance to the Eastern African nation, which is bordered by the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean in the Horn of Africa.

“The U.S. assistance is quite visible and we foresee more aid in the future on the rebuilding of Somalia,” Hassan Sheikh told journalists. He noted the need for closer ties with the United States to strengthen stabilization and enhance economic development.

The under secretary affirmed the centrality of the Somali government and people in guiding international support to the country.

Sherman “urged the Somali leadership to continue to consolidate gains by helping local governance structures emerge through community dialogue and reconciliation, rapidly providing services, drafting legislation to facilitate implementation of the provisional constitution adopted in August, and addressing al-Shabaab defectors and the charcoal stockpile in the port city of Kismayo,” the department announcement said.

Sherman also congratulated AMISOM Force Commander Gutti for AMISOM’s recent success in driving the extremist group al-Shabaab out of significant population centers and acknowledged the courage and professionalism of the AMISOM forces in achieving these gains.

“Ambassador Sherman underscored the continued U.S. commitment to support AMISOM and the Somali national forces in their critically important responsibility of extending security throughout Somalia,” the State Department said.

Sherman also congratulated the Somali business community for its efforts to sustain the Somali economy during Somalia’s 20 years of civil conflict. She congratulated Somali civil society for its provision of services to the Somali people in the lack of a functioning government.

Sherman is scheduled to travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia from October 29 through November 8, according to the State Department.

“Under Secretary Sherman will further numerous objectives during her trip, including advancing regional security, promoting strong democratic institutions, extending U.S. appreciation for African peacekeeping efforts, and leading the first meeting of the U.S.–South Africa Bilateral Working Group on African and Global Affairs,” a department announcement said.

[State Dept. on Under Secretary Sherman’s Visit to Somalia](#)

4. Pentagon Moves to Refine Acquisitions Process, Official Says (11-05-2012)

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 2012 – The Defense Department continues to do all it can to enhance the defense acquisition process, improving the Pentagon’s buying power and maximizing value for taxpayers’ money, a senior Pentagon official said today.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, shared his latest efforts to improve the process as he spoke during the 31st Annual Government Contract Management Conference here.

“The essence of my job has always been about getting as much value as possible for the taxpayers,” he said. “Former Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates saw the kind of coming storm with the deficit problem that we have and realized early on that defense was going to have to do its share.”

In response, Kendall said, he and his predecessor, Ashton B. Carter, who now serves as the deputy defense secretary, developed the ‘Better Buying Power’ initiative just over two years ago and have been implementing its principles ever since.

“We’re going to move from them onto what I’m going to call ‘Better Buying Power 2.0,’” he said. “It’s one of several things I’m doing to kind of move the acquisition process.”

Kendall explained he refers to the entirety of the acquisition enterprise when he speaks of acquisition.

“It includes technology, it includes logistics; so my idea of acquisition is the total set of things,” he said.

Acquisition, he added, involves not just buying new equipment and equipping the nation’s forces, “but also sustaining the force over time. So the readiness side of it is very much a part of this.”

The undersecretary explained some of the efforts he has undertaken to enhance the defense acquisition process, including updating the flagship guidance for defense acquisitions.

“I’m re-writing DOD 5000.02, the DOD instruction that covers the acquisition system and how we do business,” Kendall said. “What I found is that there had been a lot of laws that had been passed that needed to be integrated into the document.”

Secondly, “the document really lays out ... one thing called the acquisition system,” Kendall said.

“There are so many different types of products that we buy, and so many different ways to structure programs around the type of product that you’re buying, that I really felt that we needed something that emphasized those different ideas,” the undersecretary said.

The new guidance, he said, will include several models for structuring programs. Kendall noted DOD 5000.02 was 20 pages long when he began his career and has now ballooned to about 200 pages.

“Another thing I’m doing -- it’ll be probably around the first of the year -- is putting out a report on the performance of the acquisition system,” Kendall said. “I have a very strong belief that we need to be data-driven in what we do.

“I have a sign outside my door that says ‘In God We Trust, all others must bring data,’ he continued. “We’re going to try to take a look ... at what actually works. Try to look at the data and try to understand what actually works and how much it works.”

Kendall noted the report, which he described as “the beginning of a long journey,” will start to put some quantitative analysis and data analysis into the defense acquisition equation.

“It’s about putting it out in the public domain so everybody that thinks they’re an expert on acquisition ... can go back and look at this data and see if there’s anything in the history that tells us what works and what doesn’t,” he said.

Biographies:

[Frank Kendall](#)

Related Articles:

[Better Buying Power Drives Acquisitions](#)

5. Report: Afghan Security Forces Face Infrastructure Challenges (11-01-2012)

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1, 2012 – The Afghan government will have a tough time maintaining and operating the infrastructure for its national security forces once international forces leave, according to a report issued by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction yesterday.

Defense Department officials are aware of these concerns and welcome the report, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said today.

“There are problems that do come up and obstacles,” he said. “But our commitment to the strategy remains sound. I think we’ve been very clear-eyed in our public statements about the fact that, while we’re making progress, challenges remain.”

The inspector general report echoes what defense leaders have been saying for years -- that the Afghan military will need assistance with maintenance and logistics.

“The Afghan government’s challenges in assuming operations and maintenance responsibilities include a lack of sufficient numbers and quality of personnel, as well as undeveloped budgeting, procurement and logistics systems,” according to the report.

Recruiting educated personnel to fill technical positions is a challenge for the Afghan military, which lacks personnel with the technical skills required to operate and maintain critical facilities, such as water supply, waste water treatment and power generation, the report said.

DOD leaders understand that there will be continuing challenges in Afghanistan, Little said, even as the process moves toward the transition to full Afghan-led responsibility at the end of 2014.

“Reports such as this are helpful in identifying some of the issues we continue to confront, and we certainly take their concerns on board,” he said.

There will undoubtedly be problems developing these capabilities in the Afghan military, Little said.

“But, overall we think the process is going very well,” he said. “Afghan military capabilities are growing steadily. They are taking more and more leadership on missions and operations. It’s not going to be a perfect process, but it is certainly on the right trajectory.”

Related Sites:

[NATO International Security Assistance Force](#)

[Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction Audit 13-1](#)

6. Canada, United States Cooperate to Strengthen Cybersecurity (10-31-2012)

Washington — Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Canadian Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews on October 26 announced the Cybersecurity Action Plan, which aims to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation through enhanced integration and collaboration of joint cybersecurity activities between their two agencies.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said this plan represents just one of many important efforts between the United States and Canada to deepen strong bilateral cybersecurity cooperation and advance the objectives in the February 2011 declaration "Beyond the Border: A Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness." That declaration is aimed at defending and protecting critical infrastructure, ensuring resiliency of mutual assets and securing a free and open cyberspace.

“The Cybersecurity Action Plan reinforces the robust relationship between DHS and Public Safety Canada,” said Napolitano. “We look forward to continuing our work together to increase the resiliency of our networks, enhance public-private partnerships, and build a culture of shared responsibility.”

“Because the Internet knows no borders, Canada and the U.S. have a mutual interest in partnering to protect our shared infrastructure,” said Toews. “We are committed to working with the U.S. to protect vital government and critical digital infrastructure of binational importance, and to make cyberspace safer for all our citizens.”

The Cybersecurity Action Plan outlines shared goals for improved engagement, collaboration, and information sharing at the operational and strategic levels, with the private sector, and in public awareness activities.

The joint Cybersecurity Action Plan follows the September 27 announcement by Toews of a new partnership between Public Safety Canada and the Stop.Think.Connect. campaign.

In 2009, President Obama recognized the need to increase education and dialogue about cybersecurity. The president ordered the Cyberspace Policy Review. The review, DHS said, has become the blueprint from which the U.S. cybersecurity foundation “will transform into an assured and resilient digital infrastructure for the future.”

As part of this policy review, the Department of Homeland Security was asked to create an ongoing cybersecurity awareness campaign — Stop.Think.Connect. — to help Americans understand the risks that come with being online. The Stop.Think.Connect. campaign launched on October 4, 2010, in conjunction with National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The U.S. cybersecurity awareness effort, DHS said, complements Canada’s Get Cyber Safe campaign, which provides Canadians with the information they need to protect themselves and their families against online threats.

Both announcements underscore the importance of collaborative efforts and the commitment from the governments of Canada and the United States to cybersecurity and protection of critical infrastructure, DHS said.

7. Clinton Endorses Kosovo's Efforts to Join EU, NATO (10-31-2012)

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has promised U.S. backing for Kosovo's drive to join the European Union and NATO.

Speaking in Pristina October 31, Clinton said normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia is key to Kosovo's entry into the EU and NATO.

"I urge Kosovo's leaders to continue to carry out negotiations with Serbia in good faith. Certainly, addressing the concerns of the Kosovo Serbs will be critical. I will meet with a group of ethnic Serb returnees later today, and will convey America's commitment to helping build a future in Kosovo and throughout the region where all people of all backgrounds have a chance to succeed," she said.

Kosovo fought a bitter war of secession and unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008. Ethnic Serbs in northern Kosovo have not been fully integrated into the rest of Kosovo.

With Clinton and EU High Representative for Foreign Policy Catherine Ashton standing beside him, Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi declared that he is the prime minister of all people of Kosovo.

"I am prime minister of all citizens, both the citizens in the north and in the south," he said. "We will continue to extend our hand of cooperation and provide services to all."

Thaçi said that after nearly five years of independence, Kosovo is determined to implement rule of law and combat corruption and organized crime in order to gain admission to the EU.

Clinton said that the United States opposes any discussion of changing Kosovo's boundaries or reopening its independent status. "These matters are not up for discussion," she said.

The secretary praised the political courage of Kosovo's prime minister for going to Brussels October 19 to meet Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić under EU auspices for direct talks aimed at eventually resolving the differences between the two Balkan countries. "It was the right decision. It was courageous and it was smart," she said.

The EU's Ashton said Kosovo's path to entry into the EU is not easy, but the ultimate rewards make the efforts worthwhile. She said that when Kosovo one day gains admission to the EU, it will be stronger economically and politically and will be a country where rule of law and human rights are fully respected.

"To the people of Kosovo, I say ... your future lies with the European Union, and we are eager to see you realize this ambition," she said.
